

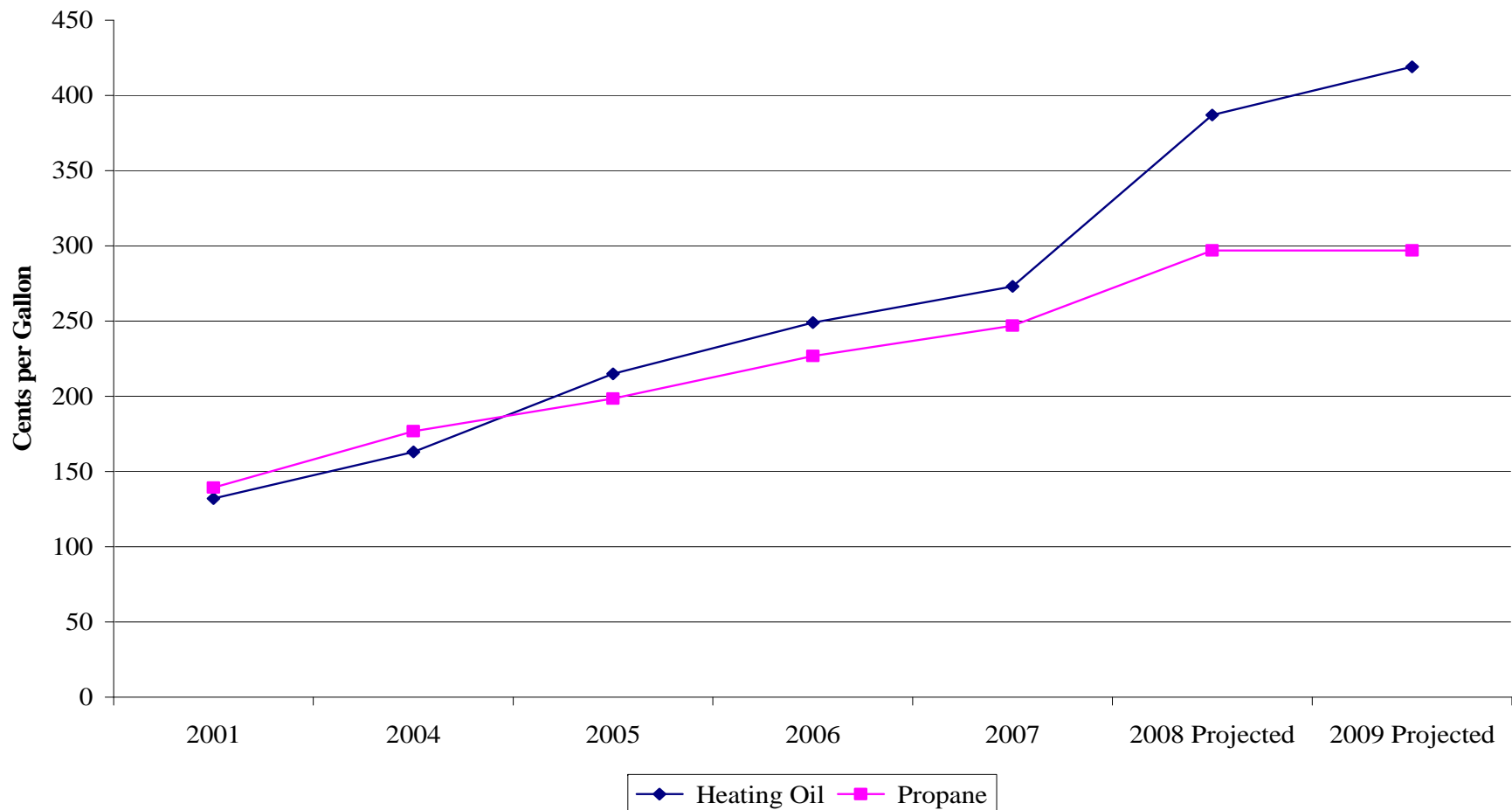


# Winter 08-09: What We Can Do To Help Low-Income Households

# Heating Oil Prices, 2001-2009

(Data prepared by J. Howat, NCLC)

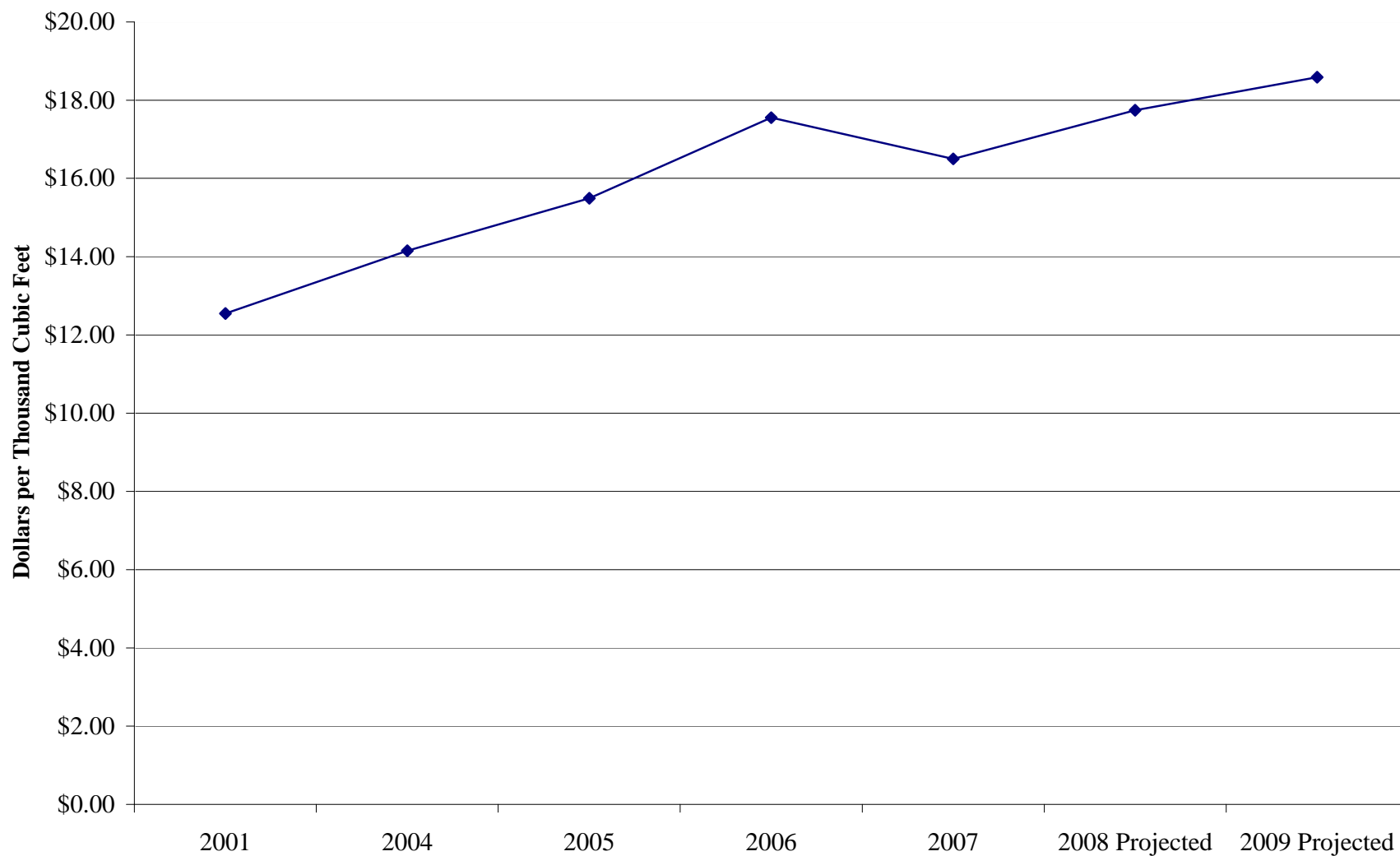
## Average Residential Heating Oil and Propane Prices: Northeast Census Region



# Natural Gas Prices, 2001-2009

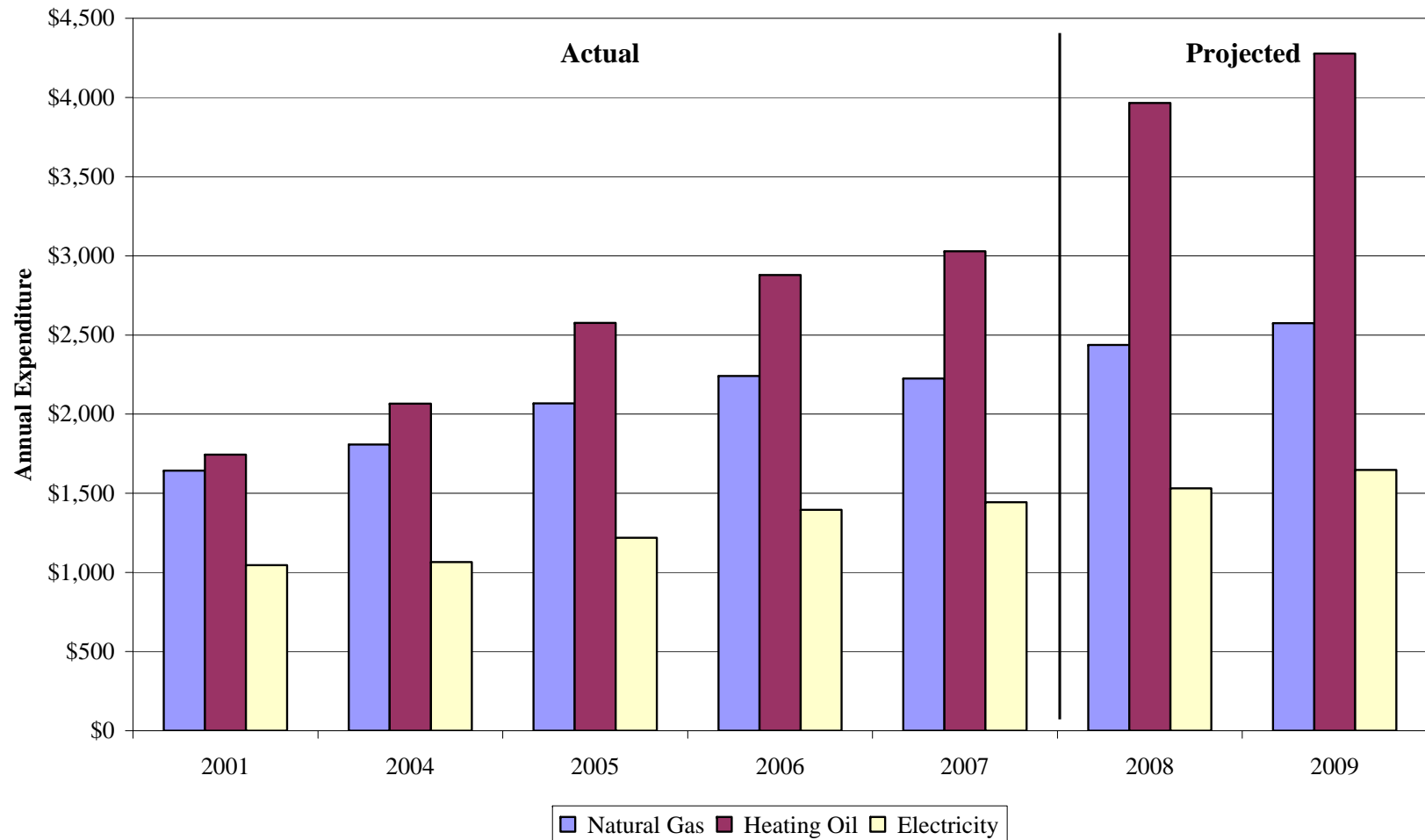
Data prepared by J. Howat, NCLC

**Average New England Residential Natural Gas Prices**

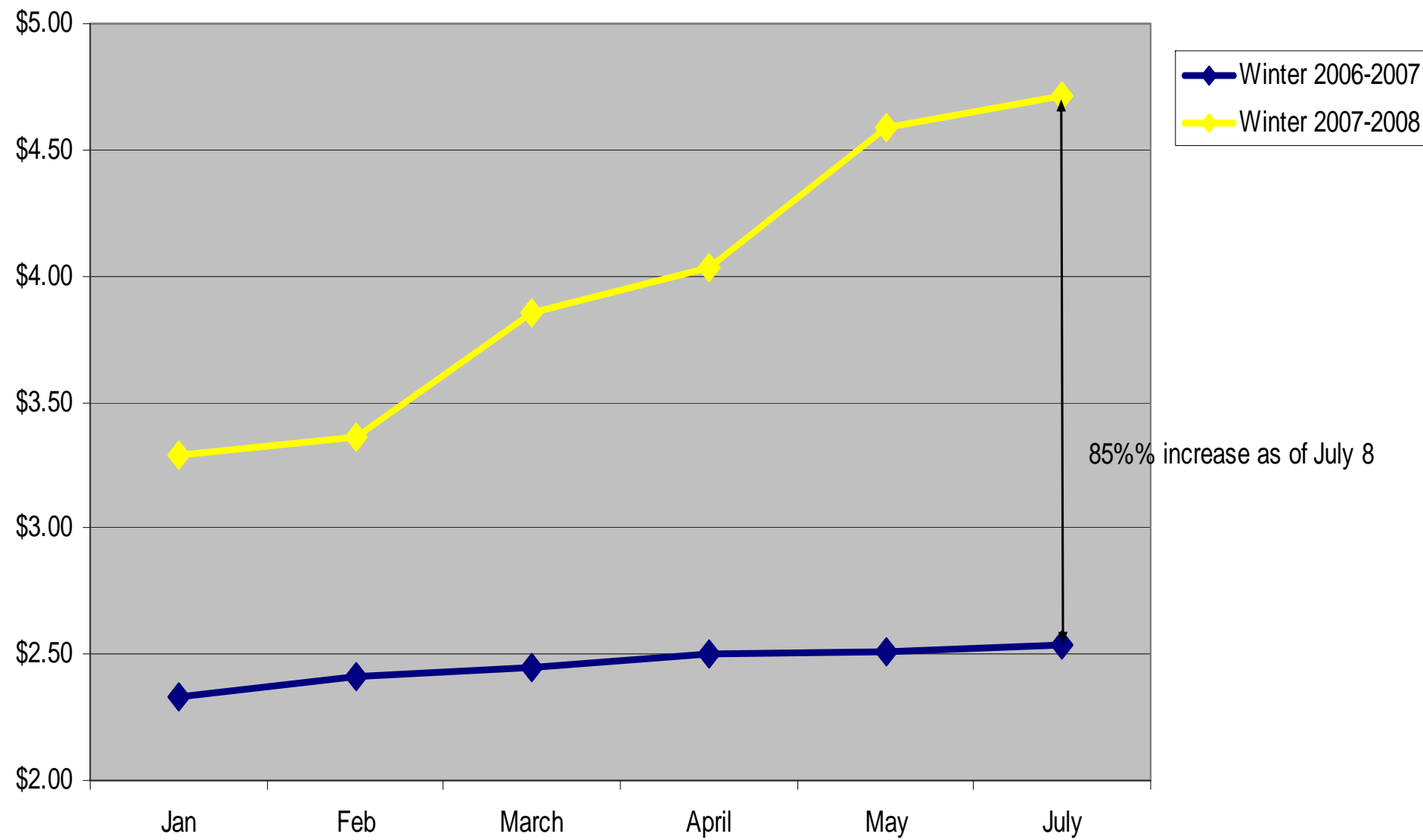


# LIHEAP-Eligible Households: Average Expenditure, 2001-2009

Average New England Home Energy Expenditures by Heating Fuel:  
LIHEAP-Eligible Households



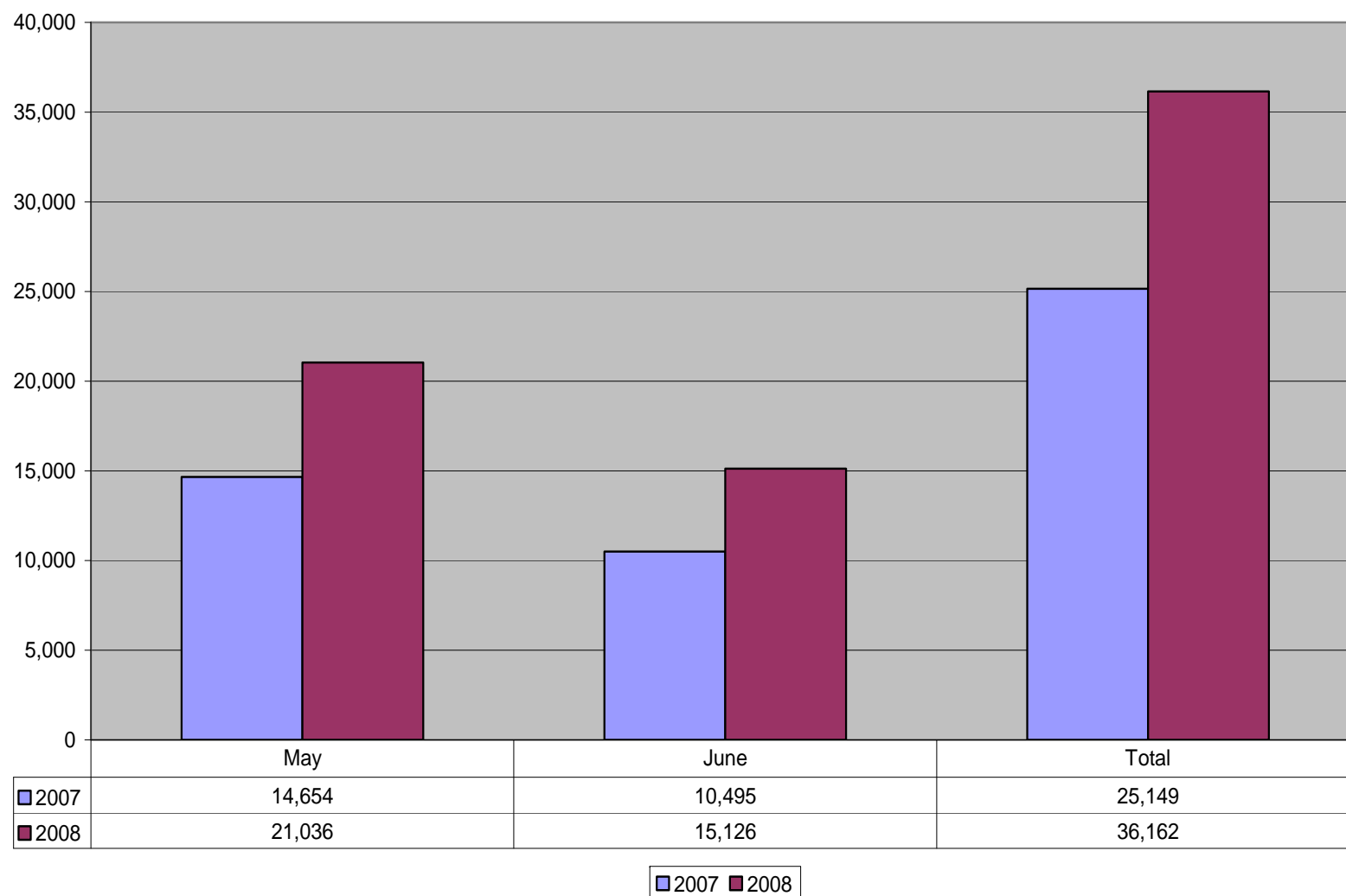
# Mass Retail Heating Oil Prices



# Termination Trends 2007-2008:

44% inc. in termination notices

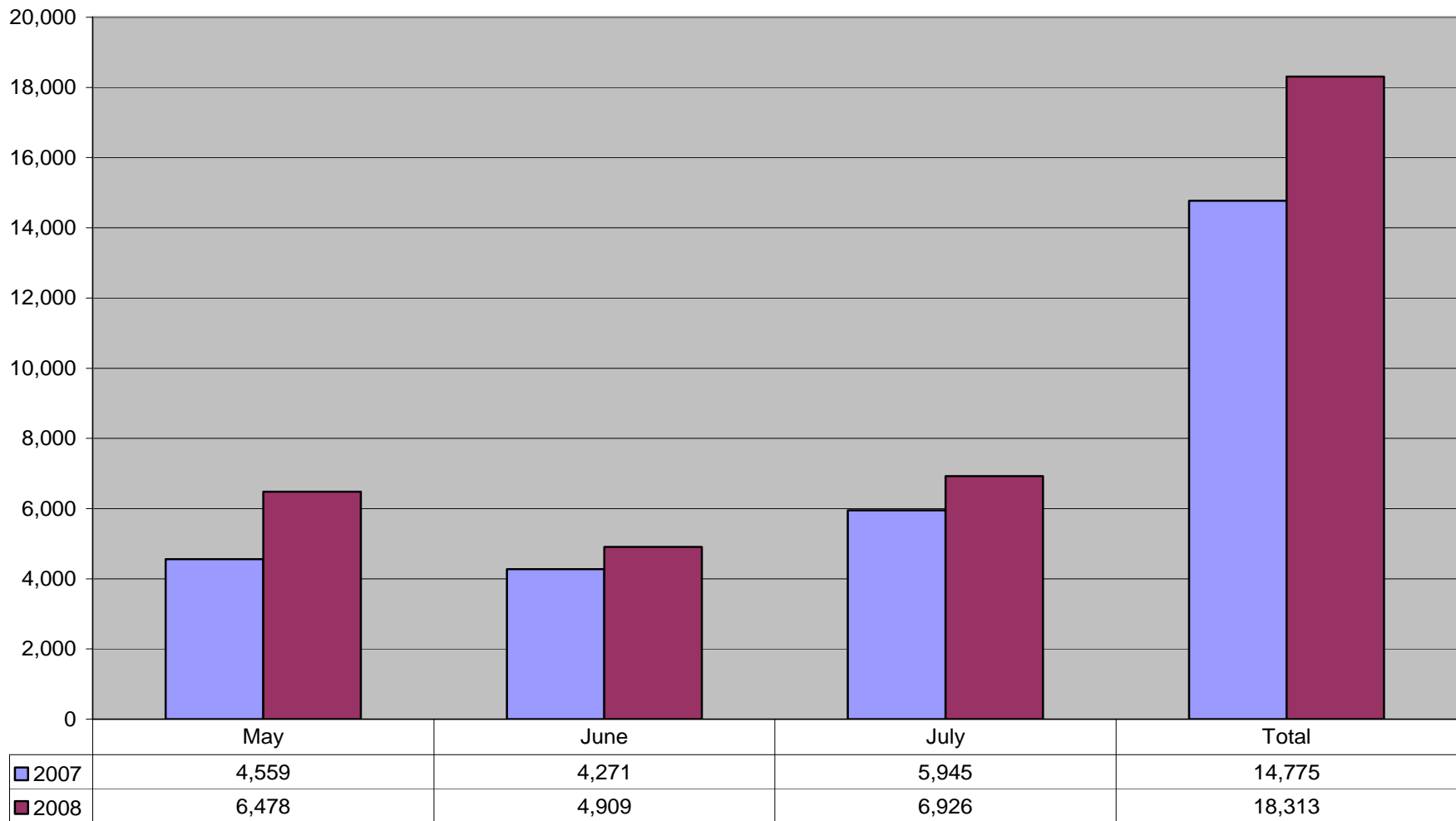
## NSTAR Gas Termination Notices



# Termination Trends 2007-2008:

24% inc. in terminations

**MECO Total Household Service Terminations**

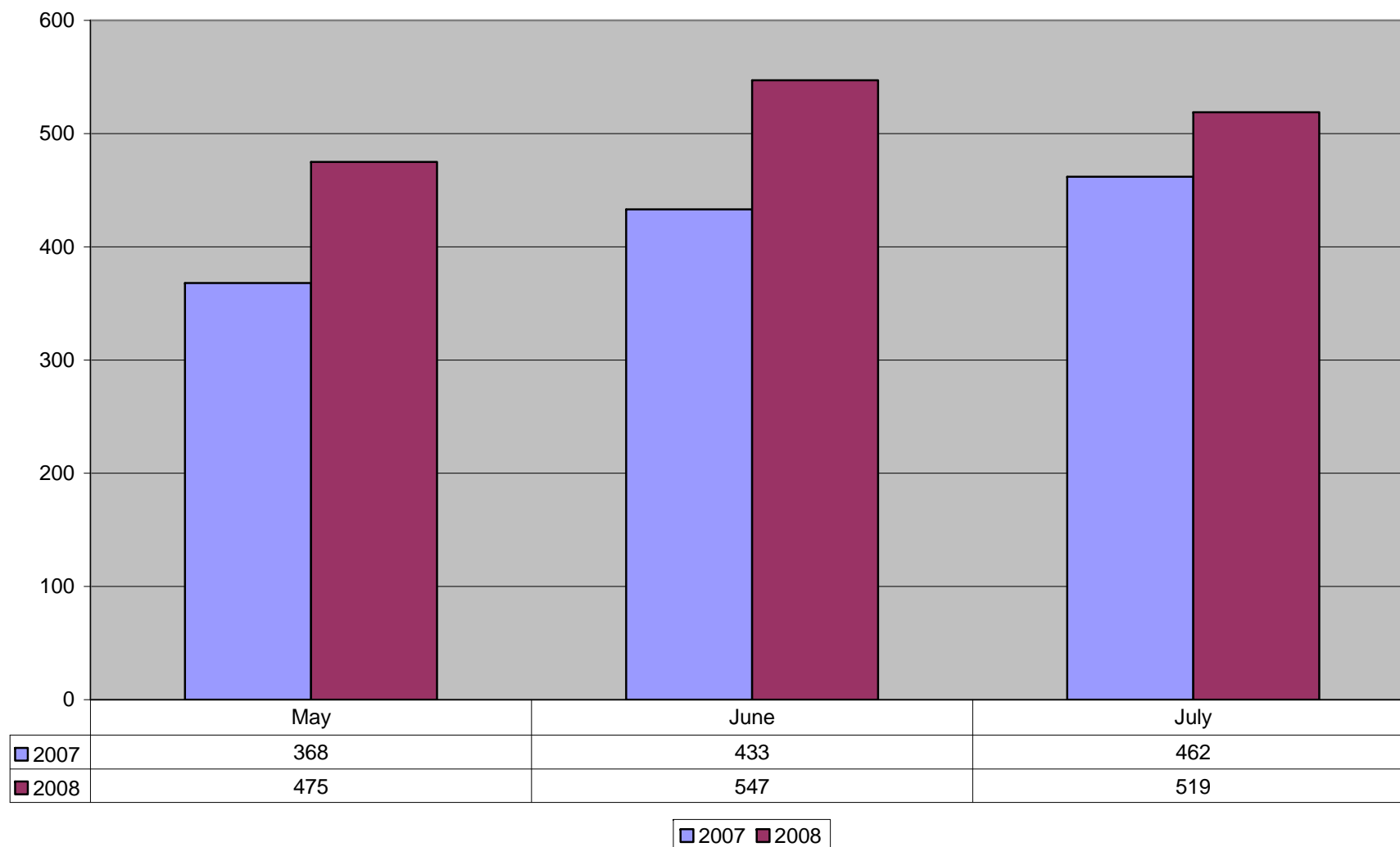


2007 2008

# Termination Trends 2007-2008:

22% inc. in low-income terminations

## Keyspan Low-Income Household Service Terminations





# Arrearage Trends 2007-2008:

Inc. of 22% in amounts owed > 60 days

## MECO Amount Owed from Households >60 Days Late





# Federal History of LIHEAP

FY 09: \$1.7 B (reg.); \$300 M Em. Cont. (Bush budget)  
FY 08: \$1.98 B (reg.); \$590 M E.C.  
FY 07: \$1.98 B (reg.); \$190 M E.C.  
FY 06: \$2.45 B (reg.); \$555 M E.C. (incl. post-Katrina \$)  
FY 05: \$1.86 B (reg.); \$325 M E.C.  
FY 01: \$1.37 B (reg.); \$484 M E.C.  
FY 95: \$1.29 B (reg.); \$130 M E.C.  
FY 88: \$1.53 B (reg.); \$0 E.C.  
FY 81: \$1.85 B (reg.); \$0 E.C.



## State LIHEAP Supplements

FY 09:	\$10 M	(Ch. 302, Acts of 2008)
FY 08:	\$15 M	(Ch. 174, Acts of 2007)
.....		
FY 06:	\$20 M	(Ch. 140, Acts of 2005 – supp.)
.....		
FY 91:	\$5 M	(Ch. 150, Acts of 1990)
FY 90:	\$13 M	(Ch. 240, Acts of 1989)
FY 89:	\$17 M	(Ch. 233, Acts of 1988)
FY 88:	\$15 M	(Ch. 199, Acts of 1987)
FY 82-87	\$17 M	(various acts, regular budget)



# Household Benefit Levels

Last Year: As high as \$1165 per household

This year: Tentatively \$560 per HH; could go to \$630.

This year's purchasing power (@\$3.50 to \$4.00/gal.):  
1/2 to 3/4 tank, enough to last to late Nov./early Dec.

# Recommendations

- 1. State supp. of \$50 M for LIHEAP (fuel assistance).
- 2. Implement decision in DPU 08-4: discount rate increases, expand arrearage management programs.
- 3. Cities and towns must develop emergency plans.
- 4. Ramp up expenditures on energy efficiency.
- 5. Utility customers need to know their rights.
- 6. Identify seniors at risk/regularly check in on them.
- 7. State agencies host “Benefits Expos”
- 8. Make sure utility allowances are up-to-date